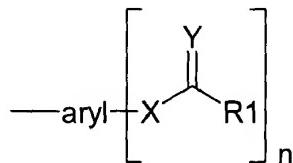


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 9-12, 16-17, and 22 as indicated in the following claim list.

1. (Currently Amended) A conjugate, which comprises a molecule to be transported and at least one aryl radical of the formula I,



(I)

wherein

aryl is a group which contains at least one ring having an aromatic character;

X is O or N;

Y is O, S or NH-R2;

R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₂₃ C₅-C₂₃ alkyl radical, which is straight-chain or branched and may contain double and/or triple bonds;

R² is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁ - C₁₈ alkyl radical which is straight-chain or branched and may contain double and/or triple bonds; and

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n is an integer greater than or equal to 1,

wherein the aryl radical is attached to the molecule to be transported either directly via a chemical bond or indirectly via a chemical group, wherein the chemical group is not a CH₂-S group if the attachment is through an internucleotide phosphodiester bond of the molecule to be transported.

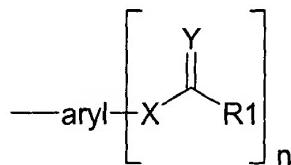
2. (Original) The conjugate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the molecule to be transported is a macromolecule having a molecular weight > 500 Dalton.
3. (Withdrawn) The conjugate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the molecule to be transported is a polynucleotide, a polypeptide, or a polysaccharide.
4. (Original) The conjugate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the molecule to be transported is an oligonucleotide.
5. (Original) The conjugate as claimed in claim 4, wherein the oligonucleotide is modified.
6. (Withdrawn) The conjugate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the molecule to be transported has a molecular weight < 500 Dalton.

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7. (Withdrawn) The conjugate as claimed in claim 6, wherein the low-molecular-weight compound is a mononucleotide.

8. (Previously Presented) A conjugate, which comprises a molecule to be transported and at least one aryl radical of the formula I,



(I)

wherein

aryl is a group which contains at least one ring having an aromatic character;

X is O or N;

Y is O, S or NH-R²;

R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁ - C₂₃ alkyl radical, which is straight-chain or branched and may contain double and/or triple bonds;

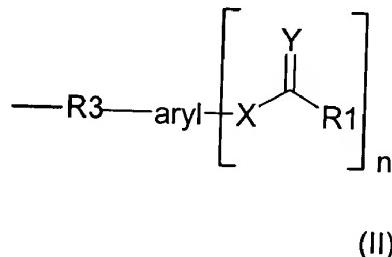
R² is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁ - C₁₈ alkyl radical which is straight-chain or branched and may contain double and/or triple bonds; and

n is an integer greater than or equal to 1,

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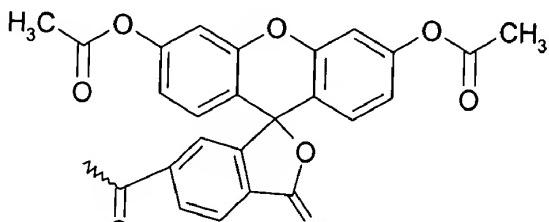
wherein the aryl radical is attached to the molecule to be transported via a chemical group, and wherein the chemical group together with the aryl radical has the formula II



where aryl, X, Y and R¹ are as defined above and

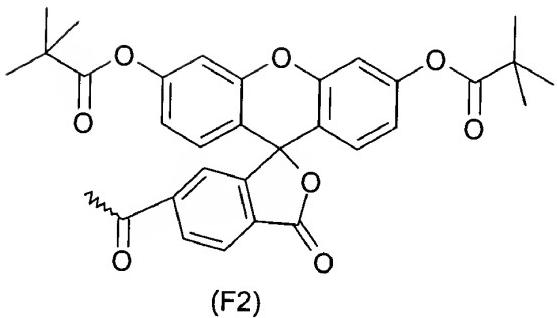
R³ is a carbonyl or thioamide group.

9. (Currently Amended) The conjugate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 8, wherein the chemical group and the aryl radical together have one of the formulae F1 to F11

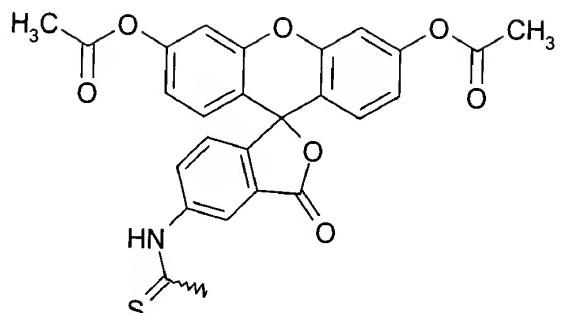


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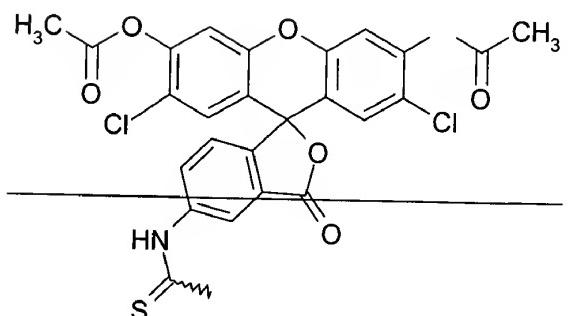
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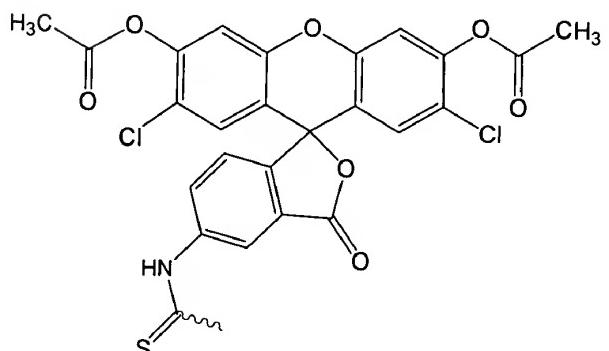
(F2)



(F3)



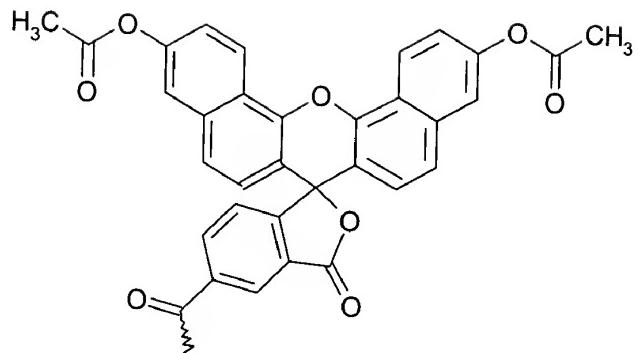
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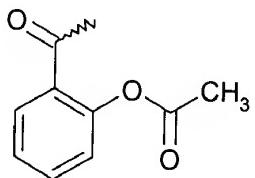
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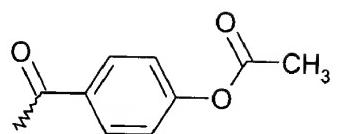
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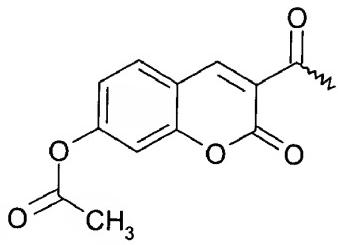
(F5)



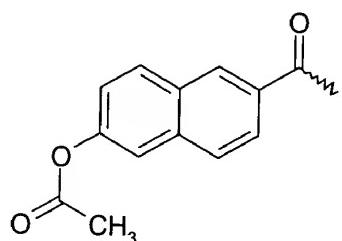
(F6)



(F7)



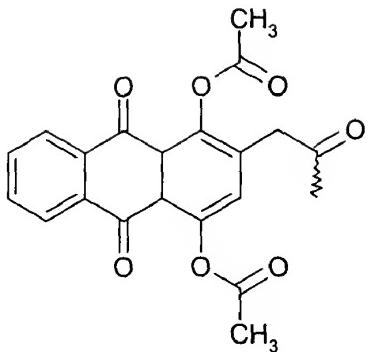
(F8)



(F9)

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(F11)

10. (Currently Amended) A The conjugate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 8 which comprises

- a) a polynucleotide, oligonucleotide, or mononucleotide, and
- b) one or more aryl radicals of the formula I,

wherein the aryl radical(s) is/are attached either directly via a chemical bond or indirectly via a chemical group to the

5' end and/or

3' end and/or

one or more nucleobases and/or

one or more sugar radicals and/or

one or more internucleoside bonds,

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wherein the chemical group is not a CH₂-S group if the attachment is via an internucleotide phosphodiester bond.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a the conjugate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 8, comprising a molecule to be transported and at least one aryl radical, wherein

- a) the molecule to be transported which has a reactive function group at the position to which the aryl radical is to be attached is prepared; and
- b) the aryl radical is prepared, and
- c) the molecule to be transported is reacted with the aryl radical to give the conjugate.

12. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the reactive function group is an amino group, mercapto group, chloroacetyl group, isocyanate group, isothiocyanate group, carboxylic acid group, N-hydroxysuccinimide group, or a carbonyl chloride group.

13. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the reaction of the molecule to be transported with the aryl radical is carried out at a pH ≤ 7.5.

14. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the reaction of the molecule to be transported with the aryl radical is carried out at a pH of 7.0.

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15. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the molecule to be transported is a polynucleotide, oligonucleotide, or mononucleotide.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for transporting a molecule across a membrane, which comprises

- a) preparing a the conjugate according to claim 1 or claim 8 in which the molecule to be transported is attached to at least one aryl radical of the formula I or II,
- b) incubating the conjugate with the membrane, whereupon
- c) the conjugate is transported across the membrane.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for transporting a molecule into a cell, which comprises

- a) preparing a the conjugate according to claim 1 or claim 8 in which the molecule to be transported is attached to at least one aryl radical of the formula I or II, and
- b) incubating the conjugate with the cell, whereupon
- c) the conjugate is transported into the cell without the aryl radical being cleaved off.

18. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cell is a eukaryotic or a prokaryotic cell.

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19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cell is a bacterial cell, yeast cell, or a mammalian cell.
20. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cell is a human cell.
21. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cell is a tumour cell.
22. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 8, which process comprises
 - a) preparing a pharmaceutically active compound or a derivative thereof, where said pharmaceutically active compound or said derivative contains at least one reactive function group at a position to which an aryl radical is to be attached,
 - b) preparing an aryl radical of the formula I or II,
 - c) reacting the pharmaceutically active compound or its derivative with said aryl radical to give the conjugate and admixing the conjugate.

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23. (Original) The process of claim 22, further comprising the addition of an additive and or excipient.

24. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 8.
25. (Original) A diagnostic aid, comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 8.
26. (Original) A test kit, comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 8.

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